Marple Urban District Council.

Annual Report

OF

HARRY BURTON,

M.D., Durham; M.R.C.S., Eng.; L.S.A., Lond.; L.R.C.P.; &c.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

For the Year 1904.

R. WOOD, PRINTER, MARPLE BRIDGE.

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MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

To the Chairman and Members of the Marple Urban District Council.

SIR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting to your notice my Annual Report for the year 1904, relating to the health of your district. This is the sixth that I have brought under your notice.

The area of the Marple Urban District is 3,053 acres (urban and rural). The district is on a sub-soil of clay, with occasional deposits of sand and gravel. The population taken at the census of 1901 was 5,595, and I now calculate it at 5,650. The number of houses in the district is 1,429, of these 1,385 are inhabited, and 44 uninhabited, making an average of 4·07 persons per house.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The number of Births in		1904	was	116—	55	boys,	61	girls.
,,	,,	1903	,,	99—	44	,,	55	,,
,,	,,	1902	,,	124—	65	,,	59	,,
,,	,,	1901	,,	125				
,,	,,	1900	,,	118				
,,	,,	1899	,,	117				
,,	,,	1898	,,	117				

The Birth-rate for		1904	was	20·5.
,,	,,	1903	,,	17·5.
,,	,,	1902	,,	22·1.
,,	,,	1901	,,	22·3.
,,	,,	1900	,,	21·0.
,,	,,	1899	,,	20·8.
,,	,,	1898	,,	21·29.

The number of Deaths in 1904 was 59—21 males, 38 females; but 1 death occurred in a public institution outside the district, raising it to 60, which equals 10·6.

The number of Deaths in		1904	was	59.
,,	,,	1903	,,	62.
,,	,,	1902	,,	73.
,,	,,	1901	,,	71.
,,	,,	1900	,,	83.
,,	,,	1899	,,	88.
,,	,,	1898	,,	82.

The local Death-rate is 10·4, this being the lowest that has ever been known in the Marple District.

The Death-rate in		1904	was	10·4.
,,	,,	1903	,,	10·9.
,,	,,	1902	,,	13·03.
,,	,,	1901	,,	12·6.
,,	,,	1900	,,	14·8.
,,	,,	1899	,,	15·7.
,,	,,	1898	,,	14·7.

Of the 59 deaths 7 were under 1 year, 8 under 5 years, 3 under 15 years, 4 under 25 years, 13 under 65 years, 24 over 65 years. The number of deaths under 1 year per 1,000 births registered equals 60 in 1904, 90 in 1903, 96 in 1902, 88 in 1901, 101 in 1900, 162 in 1899, 145 in 1898.

The infantile death-rate still keeps decreasing, which is a matter of great satisfaction.

There was 1 suicide, and 4 inquests were held during the year.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The number of Infectious Diseases notified in 1904 was 87, as against 11 in 1903, this high number being entirely due to an epidemic of Scarlet Fever.

The cases were :—

Smallpox	1 case.
Diphtheria	2 cases.
Erysipelas	1 case.
Scarlet Fever ...	79 cases.
Enteric Fever ...	3 cases.
Puerperal Fever ...	1 case.

There were 3 deaths from Scarlet Fever.

MEASLES.

We had a few cases of Measles of a mild type, but 1 death occurred.

INFLUENZA (La Grippe).

The usual spring epidemic occurred of a mild form, with no deaths.

PHTHISIS AND TUBERCULAR DISEASES.

Eight deaths occurred from Phthisis, this including all Tubercular diseases.

HEART DISEASE.

There were 9 deaths from Heart Disease.

RESPIRATORY DISEASES.

Six deaths occurred from Bronchitis, chiefly in old people, and 2 from Pneumonia.

SMALLPOX.

A case of Smallpox was notified from a hamlet outside Marple. It was removed to the Infectious Hospital, all the people who had been in contact with the case were re-vaccinated, the cottage thoroughly fumigated, and the bedding and clothing destroyed. There was no further spread of the disease.

SCARLET FEVER.

A rather severe epidemic of Scarlet Fever broke out in the early part of the year. It commenced and was confined for some time to Hawk Green, but owing to the carelessness of some of the parents and the mildness of the disease, it spread to Marple itself. Some of the children were actually found peeling in the Schools. Thirty-eight cases were removed to Hospital, and the remainder treated in their own homes. Two schools, the All Saints' and the Albert Schools, were closed, the former on the following dates, January 20 to 25, February 2 to 15, and March 4 to April 18, the Albert School being closed on the latter dates only. Although there were 79 cases, only 3 deaths occurred.

METEOROLOGICAL.

The total rainfall for 1904 was 27·68 inches.

The average rainfall for the last 44 years was 31·78 inches.

This year the rainfall has been very light, and as a result the water was scarce and the reservoirs correspondingly low.

Mean average temperature for the year, 47·3° F.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.

In the Marple District there are 7 Factories or Workshops using steam power; 1 Corn Mill worked by water power; 34 Workshops employing hand labour. All the places have been systematically visited by the Inspector or myself, and we have thoroughly investigated the suitableness of the same as to structural defects, cubic space, ventilation, limewashing, etc. Where no Abstracts of the Act were found the Factory Inspector was notified, and in other cases the people were warned, with the result that they were promptly rectified.

There are nine Bakehouses in the District. In five cases the limewashing was unsatisfactory, but these were attended to. The Workshops are all clean and well ventilated; there are no cases of overcrowding or wrong employment of female labour.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

Compulsory Notification of Measles and Phthisis.
Disinfector for Bedding, Clothes, etc.

In conclusion, gentlemen, I beg to call your attention to the remarkably low death-rate and low infantile mortality of your district.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HARRY BURTON,

M.D., Durham; M.R C.S, Eng; L.S.A., Lond; L.R.C.P, Etc.

NUISANCE INSPECTOR'S REPORT

FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1904.

Privies and Ashpits. The cleansing of the Privies and Ashpits has again on the whole been fairly well attended to, and improvements have been made to many that were defective and insanitary. 1712 Ashpits, and Pails and Boxes from 142 dwellings have been emptied at a total cost of £436 17s. 8d., being a charge on the rates of nearly 4d. in the £.

Slaughter Houses. The Slaughter Houses have been inspected and always found to be clean and well kept.

Factory and Workshops Act. Bakeries, &c.

The Workshops, including Bakeries, have frequently been inspected, and the whole of them in December. As a rule, they were found clean and in good order, only limewashing or papering being required in a few instances. There are two underground Bakeries, but the circumstances are such that it has not been thought necessary to certify them unsuitable. At the Hollins Mill additional sanitary conveniences have been provided.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

The Cowsheds have been under regular supervision, and when any irregularity has been pointed out to the occupier the same has readily had attention. One farm house has been taken down and rebuilt.

New Houses.

Thirty-three new houses have been tenanted, and 21 are untenanted or are in course of construction. Seven dilapidated cottages at High Lane have been taken down and replaced with 4 new ones.

Water Supply.

The Water Supply has not been as satisfactory as last year. The drought caused a shortage of supply between September 25th and November 12th. The amount consumed during the year was 18,207,000 gallons, equal to about 9 gallons per head per day of the population supplied, including flushing, &c.

Main Sewers.

The Main Sewers have been flushed as often as possible, but the shortage of water during the summer months somewhat interfered with the work.

Sewerage Treatment.

The Outfall Works have been fairly satisfactory, only one sample taken by the Mersey and Irwell Inspector being reported unsatisfactory.

Canal Boats.

The number of Canal Boats on the Register is 82. One new boat has been registered, 41 inspected, 4 infringements of the Act, viz., 4 required painting, also 1 without water can, but were subsequently put right. There was no case of infectious disease on any of the boats.

CHARLES HAGUE,

Inspector and Surveyor.